

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/915,428

Examiner

Thai V Duong

Applicant(s)

KAWATA, MASAYUKI

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/10/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4 and 8-20.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
- (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1 ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2 ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3 ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____
- 4 ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- 5 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6 ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____
- 7 ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- 8 ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- 9 ☐ Other

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the Amendment after Final filed November 10, 2003.

Accordingly, claims 1, 3 and 8-10 were amended, and claims 5-7 were cancelled. Currently, claims 1-4 and 8-20 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-4 and 8-20 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: none of the prior art of record fairly suggests or shows all of the limitations as claimed. Specifically,

Re claim 1, none of the prior art of record discloses, in combination with other limitations as claimed, that each of support members having a preselected radius of curvature comprises a pair of grooves having a preselected radius of curvature and being spaced-apart so that the film liquid crystal device does not contact the illumination panel.

The most relevant reference, USPN 6,532,152 B1 of White et al., only discloses a support member having just one groove for supporting the film liquid crystal panel; this support member and groove do not have a preselected radius of curvature.

Re claim 12, none of the prior art of record discloses, in combination with other limitations as claimed, the support members having a first pair of confronting grooves each receiving respective ones of the side edge portions of the polarizing plate and a second pair of confronting grooves spaced apart from the first pair of grooves and receiving respective ones of the side edge portions of the film liquid crystal device so

that the film liquid crystal device does not contact the polarizing plate and does not contact any part of the arm portable information apparatus except for the contact between the support members and the side edge portions of the film liquid crystal device.

The most relevant references, USPN 6,532,152 B1 of White et al. (US'152) and JP 2000-293117 (JP'117), fail to disclose or suggest such supporting members. The US'152 only discloses a supporting member having one groove for supporting the film liquid crystal device as shown in Fig. 3A. Meanwhile, the JP'117 discloses a supporting member 301b having confronting grooves for holding a film liquid crystal device 302 and a polarizing plate 5 attached to the film liquid crystal as shown in Fig. 3.

Re claim 17, none of the prior art of record discloses, in combination with other limitations as claimed, a first pair of support members connected to the case and supporting the film liquid crystal device so that the film liquid crystal device does not contact any part of the arm portable information apparatus except for the first pair of support members; a second pair of support members connected to the case and supporting the illumination panel; and a pair of spacing members disposed between the film liquid crystal device and the illumination panel and maintaining the film liquid crystal device and the illumination panel in spaced-apart relation one another.

The most relevant references, USPN 6,532,152 B1 of White et al. (US'152) and USPN 6,292,239 B1 of Nagamura et al. (US'239), fail to disclose or suggest such supporting and spacing members. The US'152 only discloses a supporting member having one groove for supporting the film liquid crystal device as shown in Fig. 3A.

Meanwhile, the US'239 just discloses a spacing member 12a for maintaining the film liquid crystal device and the illumination panel in spaced-apart relation one another as shown in Fig. 7.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

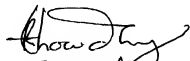
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thoi V. Duong whose telephone number is (703) 308-3171. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Kim, can be reached at (703) 305-3492.

Thoi Duong



11/23/2003


T. Chowdhury
Primary Examiner